THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will not go by rumours. Till we reach the bridge we will not think how we should cross it. Let the Bill come. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Dr. Biplab Dasgupta should have raised it in the Steering Committee. There is a super-Cabinet and a super-Government. This is for a show and for the Press he speaks on the subject here and he does not ask... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let us not go into it. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: ... his people to ensure that the matter comes before the House. (*Interruptions*)...

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: यह यूलिंग पार्टी के सपोर्टर्ज़ यहां तो बहुत शोर मचाते हैं (व्यवधान) यह बात समझ में नहीं आती। (व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Now I think the matter is going into a political disagreement. I don't want women to get involved in the political disagreement who should do what and where. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: This is domestic disharmony.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes. The Home Minister has said that it has not come before the Cabinet. I want one assurance from him that when it goes to the Cabinet he will throw all his weight in favour of the Bill. We can ask for that much assurance from him.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: That weight of the Home Minister was articulated by my colleague, Shri Satish Agarwal.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 281.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Schemes formulated by Government for production of Silk

*281. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes formulated by Government to boost the production of various types of silk;

(b) whether the production of erimuga and tasar silk has been declining of late; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase the production of silk particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Assam?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D, training, infrastructural & extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units & implementation of certain developmental/ incentive/financial assistance shcemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk. Besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericulture projects like World Bank assisted National Sericulture Project (covering 17 States), Action Plan for seven States of North Eastern region etc. in association/collaboration with the States.

(b) While the production of eri and muga silk has been steady, there has been a decline in the production of tasar.

(c) In order to check decline in production of tasar and to promote development of other non-mulberry varieties like eri and muga, the CSB has initiated an International Non-mulberry R&D Programme for taking up collaborative research projects on non-mulberry by inviting scientists from abroad. Besides organising supply of basic seed, CSB has also taken up schemes for augmentation of tasar, muga & eri food plants.

Madhya Pradesh & Assam are among the 12 non-traditional mulberry States covered under the World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project for implementation of pilot sericulture projects in select districts of these States. Besides assistance has been provided for implementation of a project for development of tasar cocoons in Madhya Pradesh and Action Plan for development of

silk industry in North Eastern States including Assam. In addition, these States can avail of assistance under the on-going approved schemes of the CSB.

SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Madam, India is the second largest silk producing country in the world after China. However, quality-wise we are second from the bottom. In ancient times we exported silk to different regions of Roman Empire through Silk Route. As early as 4th century A.D. when a Chinese princess brought silk-eggs and seeds of a mulberry tree hidden in her head-dress to her Indian prince-husband, the Indian silk industry was founded. Our technology is so good and rich that it has been successful in producing such sort of sarees which could pass through a finger ring. The Central Silk Board was constituted in 1948, after independence, and crores of rupees are being spent on the development of this agro-based cottage industry spreading over five traditional and twelve non-traditional States through an army of projects. But it has not been able to export even one kilogram of silk. Our share in the world market is 4% and that too in the form of fabrics prepared from raw silk imported on preferential terms.

उपसभापति: आपका सवाल क्या है?

SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: I am just giving an introduction, Madam. I am just coming to the question.

We cannot compete with some leaders like Japan and China in the international market. This is a very unhealty state of affair.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Are you making a Special Mention?

SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: No. I am just giving the background.

Out of the four types of silk produced in India, mulberry accounts for 90 per cent and tasar accounts for 2 per cent only. In reply to part (b) of my question the hon. Minister has stated....

उपसभापति: मिरीजी, आपने इतना बड़ा ताना बाना जोड़ा कि हम लोग भूल ही गए कि सवाल क्या है।

SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: The Minister has stated, "While the production of eri and muga has been steady there has been a decline in the production of tasar silk". In this context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister: (a) What are the details of production of the four types of silk from 1989-90 onwards, i.e. during the seven years of the National Sericulture Project of Rs. 700 crores? (b) Is there any decrease in per capita production and also in its quality?

उपसभापति: अभी बस। यह जवाब आने दीजिए।

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Madam, it is true that we have not made efforts to improve the quality of silk. Unfortunately, our weavers want more and more China silk. We have imporved bivoltine. But farmers are not prepared to take bivoltine because they are not getting five crops in a year. They only get one or two crops in a year. Although it pays, they are not coming forward. So far as mulberry is concerned, we are dependent on multibivoltine seeds. Secondly, reeling has not improved. I had been to the Central Silk Board. I sat there for one full day. I have also visited its research laboratories. After looking into all those things, I am of the opinion that there is a lot of scope for improving reeling so that there are no knotes and all that. For this we require multi-end basins. A six-end basin costs Rs. 4 lakhs and a ten-end basin costs Rs. 7 lakhs. I am now thinking of going before the Planning Commission. I am thinking of subsidising it up to 75 to 80 per cent. I am asking the Government to contribute 10 per cent and 10 per cent should be contributed by reelers so that we could get a better quality fibre and our weavers don't have to depend upon China silk. Madam China silk is detrimental to the interests of farmers as well as industry. We should not go in for importing China silk. As far as tasar silk is concerned, I would like to give some figures. In 1993-94, tasar silk was 299 tonnes and in 1994-95 it was 257 tonnes and in 1995-96 it is 194 tonnes. It is true that the production has gone down. There are various reasons for this. The first reason is, seeds are not being produced in sufficient quantity. The Central Silk Board has made efforts to supply nucleus seeds. Unfortunately, the State Seed Production Centres are not able to cope with the demand. Secondly, it is grown outside a house. It is not grown as mulberry is reared. We have to depend upon availability of

raw material, i.e. trees where cocoons are grown. These trees are very few in number. Whenever they remove cocoons, they cut the plants and they cut the branches. That is why the number of those trees is going down and down. We are also trying to see that new plants are planted so that cocoons could be grown.

We are also taking up... *(Interruptions)*...

उपसभापति : आप इतना लंबा सवाल पूछेंगे तो उतना लंबा ही जवाब आएगा। आप देखिएगा आपने इतना लंबा रेशम का तागा खींचा। The answer has to be long.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : We have taken up new schemes to improve the production of Tasar silk. We are spending about Rs. 71 lakhs. Today, we have Chinese experts in Ranchi who are suggesting ways and means to improve Tassar silk.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I think he answered everything.

SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI : Madam, as per the answer, Madhya Pradesh is among the 12 non-traditional mulberry States covered under the World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project, 1996. The cost of the project is about Rs. 700 crores. I would like to know from the Minister about allocation of funds, targets and achievements in Madhya Pradesh and Assam. Are you aware that *oza* (oonjha) flies of China are destroying the Indian silk industry? If yes, what steps are being taken to fight and prevent these flies from entering India?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Madam, the NSP has already spent Rs. 454.59 lakhs in Madhya Pradesh. We have spent Rs. 113.4 lakhs in Madhya Pradesh under other schemes in the last two-three years. We have taken up some measures to improve the production qualitywise and quantitywise. We are giving financial support to the tune of Rs. 19 lakhs for the purchase of Tassar cocoons through marketing organisations identified by the State Government. The average acreage covered is 1,852 hectares. Financial assistance is being provided to marketing agencies in UP, Orissa and West Bengal. We are trying to develop nature grown Tasar cocoon in Madhya Pradesh at an expenditure of Rs. 15 lakhs. Under the programme, 6.52 lakh cocoon seeds were released for rejuvenating during rainy days. About 20 silmun reeling units have been supplied. Raw material banks for Tasar cocoons are in operation. We are making arrangements for augmentation of Tassar food plantation which covers 758 hectares at a cost of Rs. 125 lakhs. All this is being done.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have to answer about *oza* flies; otherwise, the answer covers everything.

SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI : What steps have you taken to prevent *oza* flies?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : The State Government has to come forward; only then can we assist them in whatever way they want.

*282. [*The Questioner (Shri Anantray Devshanker Dave) was absent. For answer vide col. 29 infra.*]

Involvement of defence personnel in civilian actions

*283. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:†
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Defence personnel presently involved in civilian actions in our country;

(b) the steps being taken to see that the use of Defence forces for civil needs is the minimum;

(c) the policy of Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to review the situations from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Defence Forces are at times called upon to assist the civil administration for maintenance of law and order and internal security, maintenance of essential services, providing rescue and relief in natural calamities etc. In addition some defence forces' personnel also work with civil departments/organisations on deputation or secondment basis.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagir Singh Dard.